

RN98145
PCT/FR99/02667
Preliminary Amendment

b) drying the emulsion obtained in step a) to obtain the granules, the active substance being in the form of a hydrophobic liquid, the nonionic surfactant being a polyoxyalkylenated derivative, and the water-soluble or water-dispersible compound being:

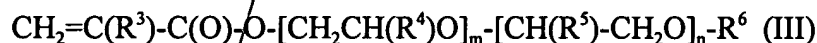
- (i) a polymer obtained by polymerizing at least one monomer (I), at least one monomer (III) and optionally at least one monomer (II), or at least one monomer (I) and at least one monomer (II'), wherein monomer (I) is an ethylenically unsaturated, linear or branched, aliphatic, cyclic or aromatic monocarboxylic or polycarboxylic acid, or anhydride, monomer (II) is an ethylenically unsaturated, linear or branched hydrocarbon, monomer (II') has the following formula $(R^2)(R^2)-C=CH_2$, in which radicals R^2 , which are identical or different, represent a hydrogen atom, or a linear or branched aliphatic, or cyclic, saturated or ethylenically unsaturated C_2-C_{10} radical, provided that the two R^2 radicals are not hydrogen atoms, and monomer (III) is a polyoxyalkylenated ester of an ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid;
- (ii) a polymer obtained by the polymerization of at least one ethylenically unsaturated, linear or branched, aliphatic, cyclic or aromatic, monocarboxylic or polycarboxylic acid, or anhydride monomer (I) and at least one saturated or unsaturated, aromatic or nonaromatic, hydrophobic C_4-C_{30} hydrocarbon graft, optionally interrupted by one or more heteroatoms;
- (iii) a polypeptide of natural or synthetic origin, comprising at least one saturated or unsaturated, aromatic or nonaromatic, hydrophobic C_4-C_{30} hydrocarbon graft, optionally interrupted by one or more heteroatoms; or

(iv) a highly depolymerized polysaccharide comprising at least one saturated or unsaturated, aromatic or nonaromatic, hydrophobic C₄-C₃₀ hydrocarbon graft, optionally interrupted by one or more heteroatoms.

28. (New) Granules according to claim 27, wherein the (i) compound is obtained by a process comprising a polymerization of:

- at least one monomer having the following formula (I) (R¹)(R¹)-C=C(R¹)-COOH (I), wherein radicals R¹, which are identical or different, represent a hydrogen atom, a C₁-C₁₀ hydrocarbon radical optionally comprising a -COOH group, a -COOH group, and,

- at least one monomer having the following formula (III)



wherein R³ represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl radical, R⁴ and R⁵, which are identical or different, represent a hydrogen atom or an alkyl radical containing from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, R⁶ is an alkyl, aryl, alkylaryl or arylalkyl radical containing from 1 to 30, n is between 2 and 100, , and, m is between 0 and 50, with the proviso that n is greater than or equal to m and their sum is between 2 and 100;

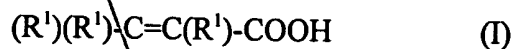
and optionally:

- at least one monomer having the following formula (II) (R²)(R²)-C=CH₂ (II) wherein radicals R², which are identical or different, represent a hydrogen atom, or a linear or branched aliphatic, or cyclic, C₁-C₁₀ radical.

29. (New) Granules according to claim 27, wherein the (i) compound is obtained by a process comprising the polymerization of:

Preliminary Amendment

- at least one monomer having the following formula (I):



wherein radicals R^1 , which are identical or different, represent a hydrogen atom, or a C_1-C_{10} hydrocarbon radical optionally comprising a $-COOH$ group, a $-COOH$ group; and

- at least one monomer having the following formula (II'):



wherein radicals R^2 , which are identical or different, represent a hydrogen atom, or a linear or branched aliphatic, or cyclic, saturated or ethylenically unsaturated, C_2-C_{10} radical, provided that the two radicals are not hydrogen atoms.

30. (New) Granules according to claim 27, wherein the monomer (I) of the (i) compound or the (ii) compound is a monocarboxylic or polycarboxylic acid, or a carboxylic anhydride, having to the following formula:



wherein R^{11} represents a hydrogen atom, a $-COOH$ group, a group $-(CH_2)_n-COOH$ in which n is between 1 and 4, or a C_1-C_4 alkyl radical, and R^{12} represents a hydrogen atom, a group $-(CH_2)_m-COOH$ in which m is between 1 and 4, or a C_1-C_4 alkyl radical.

31. (New) Granules according to claim 30, wherein R^{11} represents a hydrogen atom, a group $-COOH$, a group $-(CH_2)-COOH$, or a methyl radical, and the radical R^{12} represents a hydrogen atom, a group $-CH_2-COOH$ or a methyl radical.

32. (New) Granules according to claim 30, wherein the monomer (I) is a acrylic, methacrylic, citraconic, maleic, fumaric, itaconic or crotonic acid or anhydride.

RN98145
PCT/FR99/02667
Preliminary Amendment

33. (New) Granules according to claim 27, wherein the monomer (II) is ethylene, propylene, 1-butene, isobutylene, n-1-pentene, 2-methyl-1-butene, n-1-hexene, 2-methyl-1-pentene, 4-methyl-1-pentene, 2-ethyl-1-butene, diisobutylene, or 2-methyl-3,3-dimethyl-1-pentene.

34. (New) Granules according to claim 27, wherein the monomer (II') is 1-butene, isobutylene, n-1-pentene, 2-methyl-1-butene, n-1-hexene, 2-methyl-1-pentene, 4-methyl-1-pentene, 2-ethyl-1-butene, diisobutylene or 2-methyl-3,3-dimethyl-1-pentene.

35. (New) Granules according to claim 28, wherein R⁶ is an alkyl radical containing from 8 to 30 carbon atoms, a phenyl radical substituted with one to three 1-phenylethyl groups, or an alkylphenyl radical in which the alkyl radical contains from 8 to 16 carbon atoms.

36. (New) Granules according to claim 27, wherein the (i) or (ii) compound is obtained by polymerizing a further monomer (IV) comprising one or more monoethylenically unsaturated nonionic units, the monomer (IV) being other than the monomers (II) or (II').

37. (New) Granules according to claim 36, wherein the monomer (IV) is a vinylaromatic monomer, a C₁-C₂₀ alkyl ester of acids which is α - β -ethylenically unsaturated, a vinyl or allyl ester of acids which is α - β -ethylenically unsaturated, a vinyl or vinylidene halide, a α - β -ethylenically unsaturated nitrile, a hydroxyalkyl ester of acids which is α - β -ethylenically unsaturated, or a α - β -ethylenically unsaturated amide.

38. (New) Granules according to claim 27, wherein the graft is an aliphatic, cyclic, aromatic, alkylaromatic or arylaliphatic radical comprising 4 to 30 carbon atoms, optionally interrupted by one or more heteroatoms.

39. (New) Granules according claim 27, wherein the (i) compound is obtained by polymerizing maleic anhydride and diisobutylene.

40. (New) Granules according claim 27, wherein the polypeptide is a homopolymer or a copolymer derived at least from aspartic and glutamic acids.

41. (New) Granules according to claim 27, wherein the polysaccharide is a highly depolymerized compound obtained from dextran, starch, maltodextrin, xanthan gum or galactomannans.

42. (New) Granules according claim 27, characterized in that the nonionic surfactant is an ethoxylated or ethoxy-propoxylated fatty alcohol, an ethoxylated or ethoxy-propoxylated triglyceride, an ethoxylated or ethoxy-propoxylated fatty acid, an ethoxylated or ethoxy-propoxylated sorbitan ester, an ethoxylated or ethoxy-propoxylated fatty amine, an ethoxylated or ethoxy-propoxylated di(1-phenylethyl)phenol, an ethoxylated or an ethoxy-propoxylated tri(1-phenylethyl)phenol, an ethoxylated or ethoxy-propoxylated alkylphenol.

43. (New) Granules according claim 27, wherein the emulsion further comprises at least one additional ionic surfactant.

44. (New) Granules according to claim 27, characterized in a content of active substance between 40 and 90 parts by weight in the granule.

45. (New) Granules according to claim 27, characterized in a quantity of nonionic surfactant and of water-soluble or water-dispersible compound between 10 and 60 parts by weight in the granule.
46. (New) Granules according to claim 27, characterized in a weight ratio of concentrations between the nonionic surfactant and the water-soluble or water-dispersible compound being between 50/50 and 90/10.
47. (New) Granules according to 27, characterized in a weight ratio the concentrations between the nonionic surfactant and the additional surfactant(s) being between 5 and 10.
48. (New) Granules according claim 27, wherein the emulsion comprises 10 to 99% by weight of dry substances.
49. (New) Granules according claim 27, wherein the emulsion comprises 30 to 80% by weight of dry substances.
50. (New) Granules according to claim 27, wherein the drying of step b) is carried out in an oven, in a thin layer.
51. (New) Granules according to claim 27, wherein the drying of step b) is carried out by spray-drying.
52. (New) Granules according to claim 27, wherein the drying of step b) is carried out by means of a Duprat® drum.

31
PCT/FR99/026